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Rault Report May Require More Time

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A "very thorough public report" on the Rault Center fire promised yesterday by Mayor Moon Landrieu to be completed in about two weeks may take a little longer than expected.

Asst. Fire Superintendent William McCrossen said today that the mayor may have been optimistic in his estimated date of completion of the report, being compiled by the City Fire Prevention Bureau, the state Fire Marshal's Office and the New Orleans Fire Department.

McCrossen said he felt that the NOFD's part of the report, which deals with how the fire was fought, would be completed earlier than expected, however.

McCrossen also said that there were no new developments in the investigation into the Nov. 29 tragedy which saw four people die, three women plunging seven stories to their deaths from a fiery 18th story window to a roof eight stories below.

He said that cans found in the building which could be linked to possible arson were under laboratory investigation and cautioned that "sometime these things just turn out to be property of the building."

Investigators have been reluctant to say if they have uncovered any evidence of arson. The fact that two fires occurred in the same building the same day has caused investigators to look closely at the arson angle.

Two women who survived jumps from the building remained in critical condition today at Charity Hospital. They are Mrs. Natalie Smith, 30, 528 Aurora, and Mrs. Wilma Williams, 26, 1724 Caffin Ave.